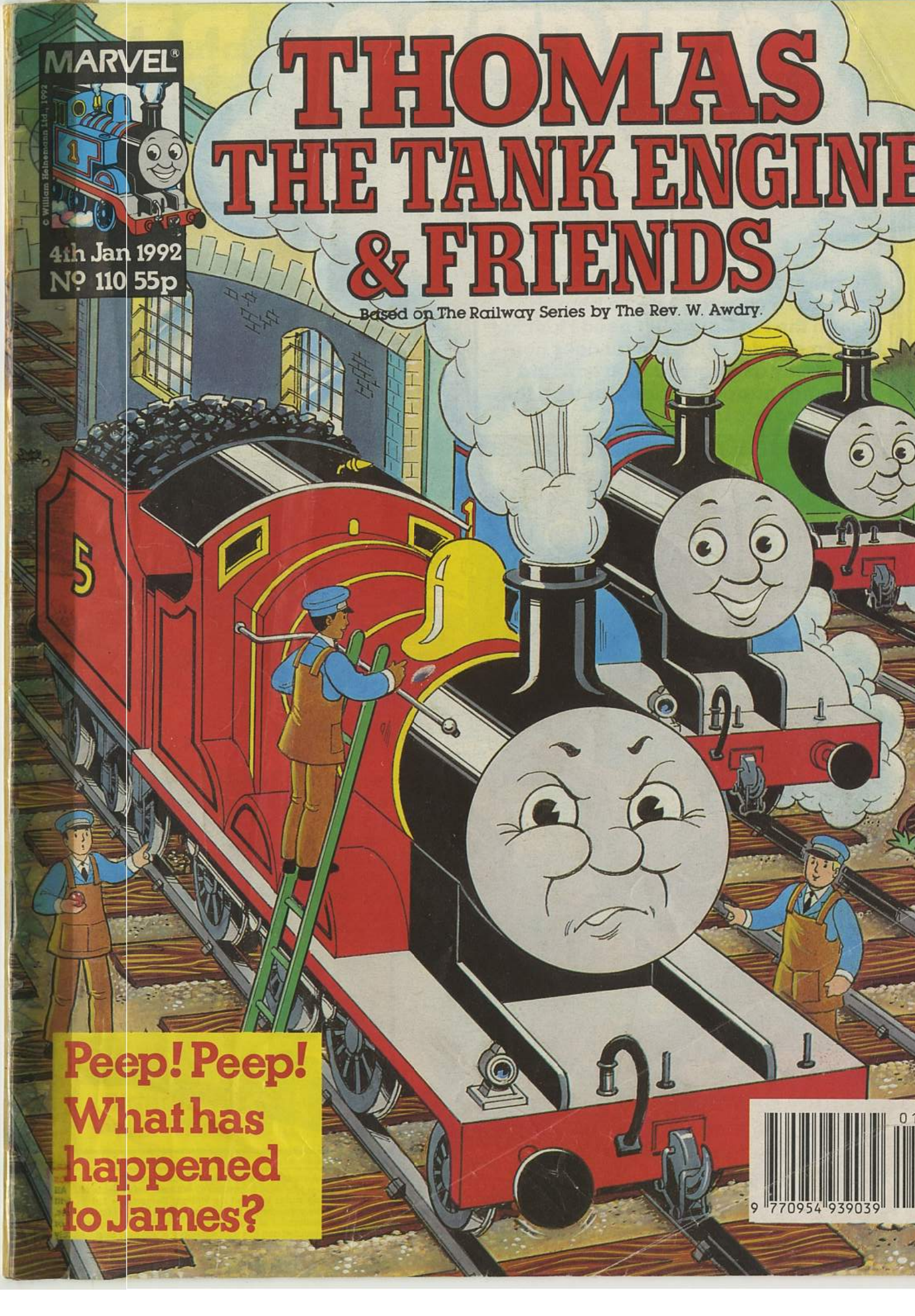
MARVEL®
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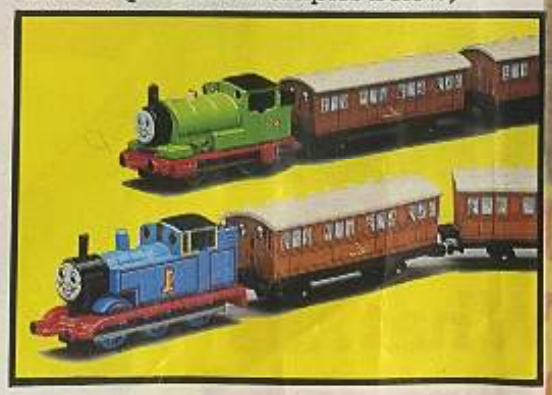
4th Jan 1992
№ 110 55p
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.
Peep! Peep!
What has
happened
to James?
9 770954 939039

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! James is a fine red engine with a splendid, shiny brass dome. He is forever telling the other engines how important he is and one day has a chance to prove himself when the Fat Controller needs him to pull a special train. But all does not go strictly as planned. You can find out what happens when you read the story that begins on page 3.

NEW YEAR COMPETITIONS!

During 1992, **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine will continue to feature a whole host of exciting competitions, with even more splendid prizes to be given away from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.* Full details will be featured in forthcoming issues! (product examples below)



HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your special **Fat Controller card** just send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with one completed coupon (below) listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope to Fat Controller Card, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

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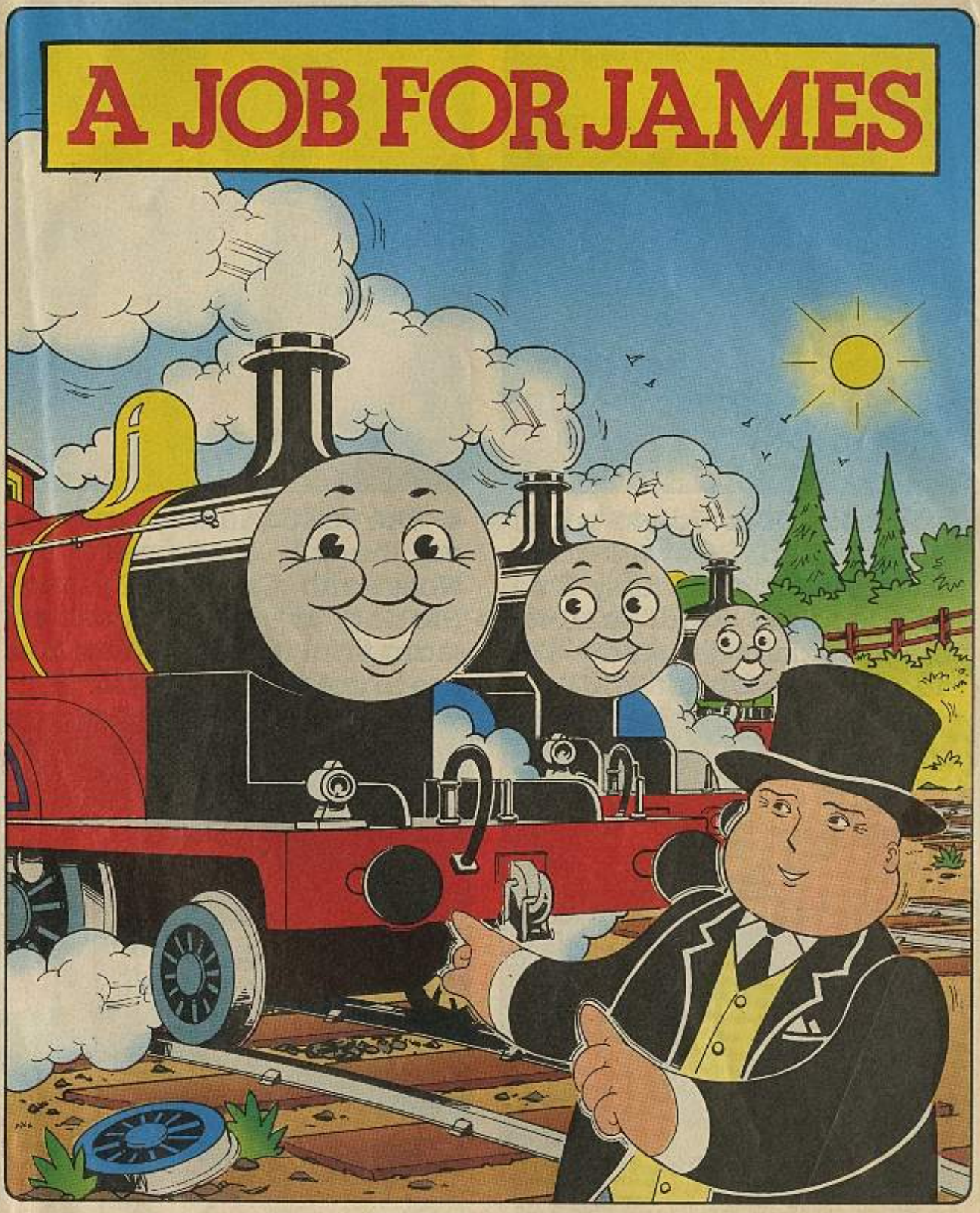
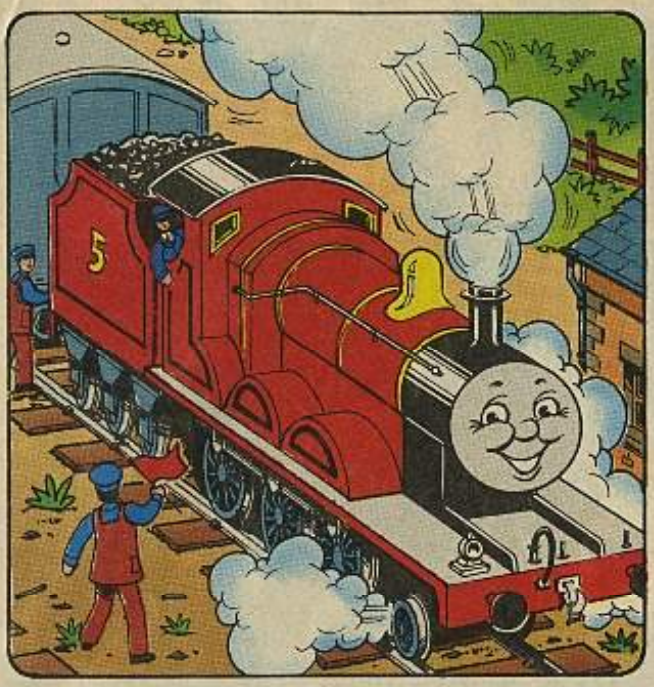
A listen and look story!



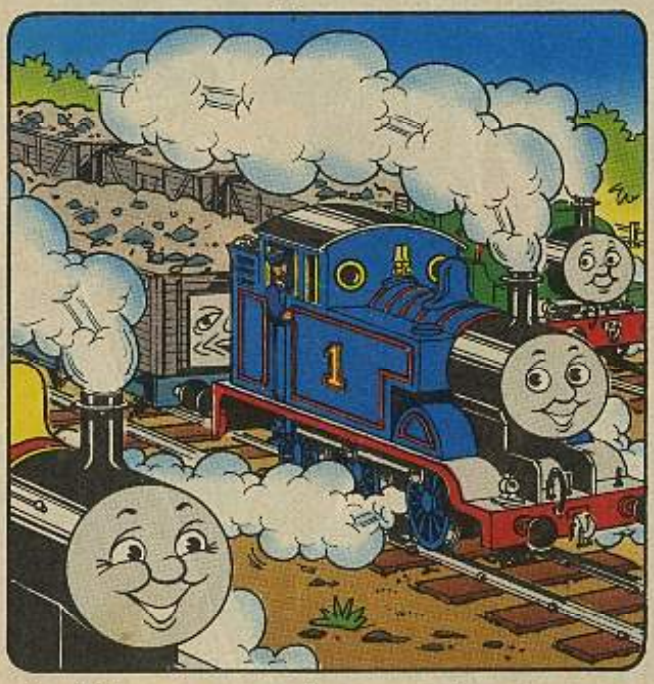
1. James was busy in the Station yard shunting trucks with Thomas and Percy. The trucks were being very naughty. "I want to pull well behaved coaches," said James.

2. James was pleased when the Fat Controller told him he was needed for an urgent job. "I need you to pull a special passenger train," said the Fat Controller.

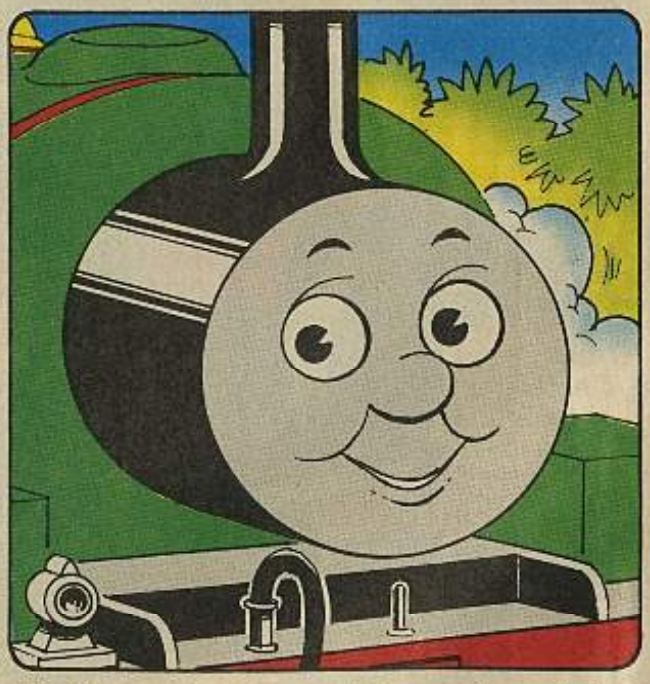


3. James boasted to poor Thomas and Percy. "I don't have to work with fussy little tank engines and troublesome trucks," he said. "I'm much too important!"

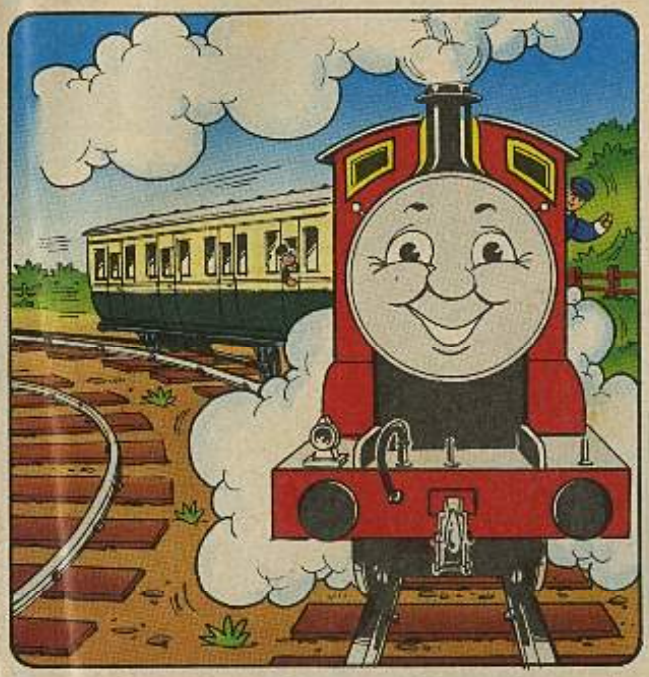
4. The Fat Controller explained the job to James. "The Wellsworth Cricket Club are playing against a visiting team from the mainland. You are to collect the visitors."



5. "You see, I am far more important than you!" James told Thomas and Percy. "I'm a really Useful Engine!" "He's a really tiresome engine!" Thomas whispered cheekily.

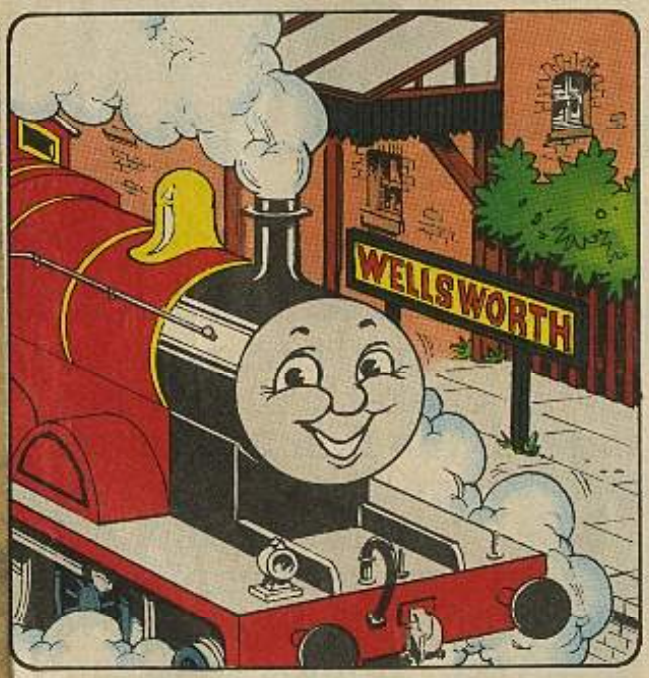


6. "James is getting too big for his buffers!" said Percy. "Pulling trucks is important, too!" James set off grandly to collect the visiting cricket team from the Harbour yard.

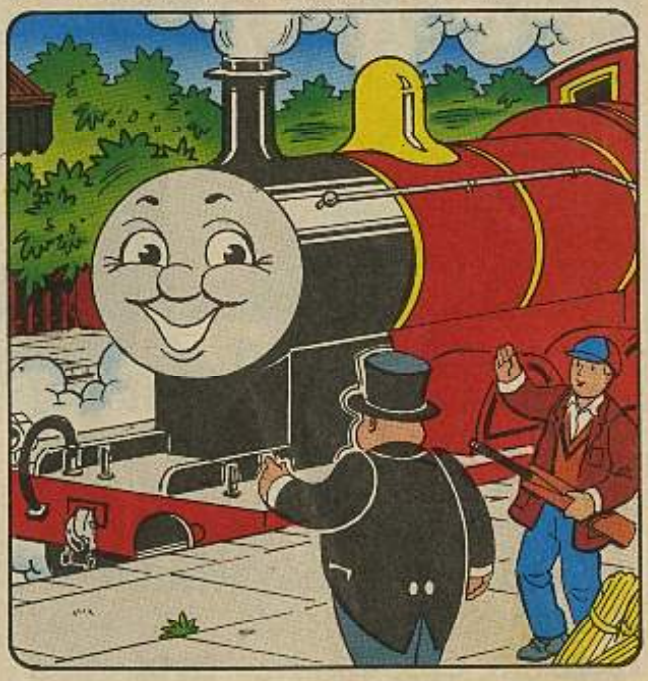


7. The Fat Controller travelled with James. "I shall welcome the team to the Island of Sodor," he told James's driver. "This is a special occasion!" James felt proud.

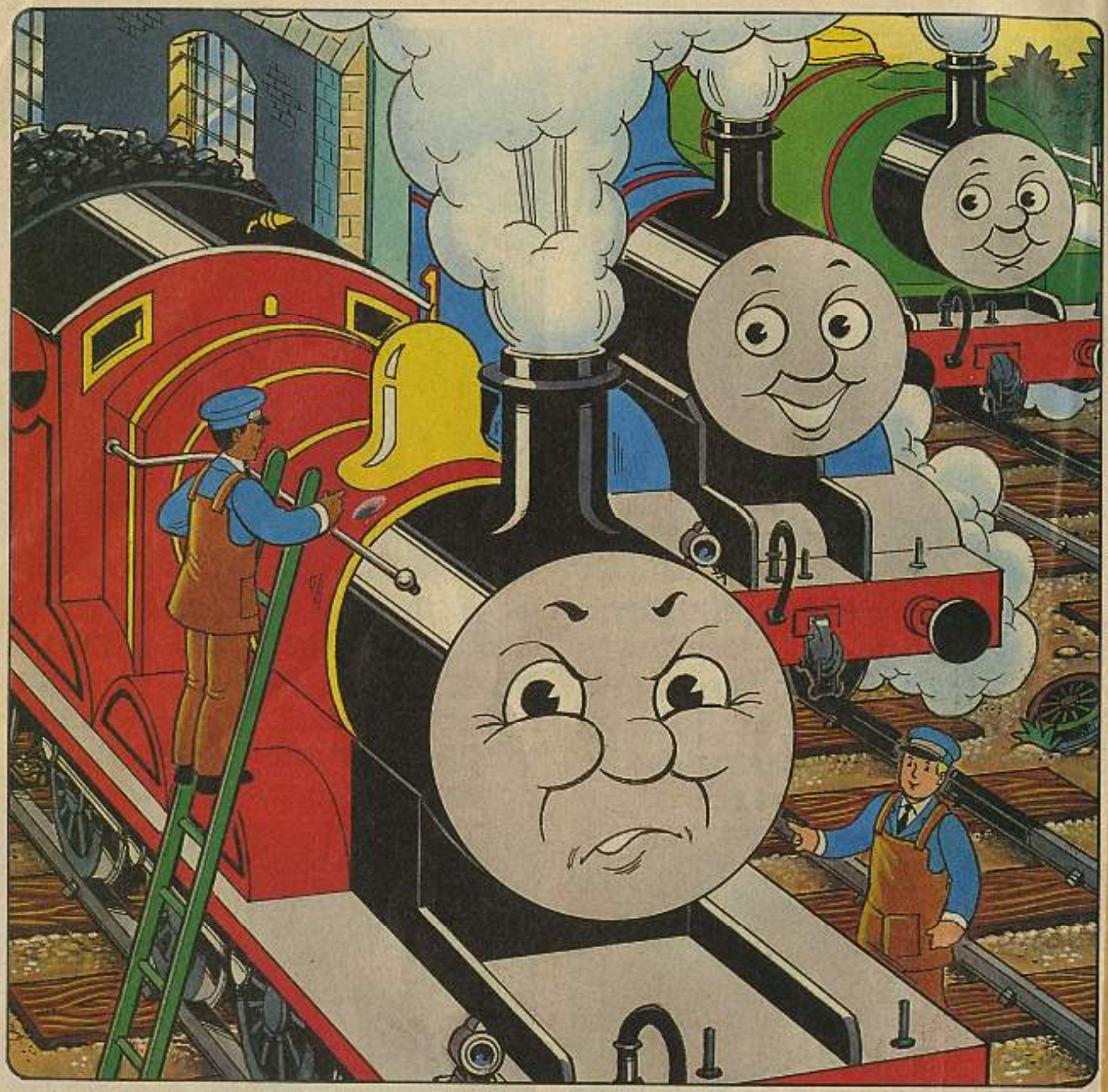
8. At the big Harbour, James saw the visitors getting off the ferry that arrived from the mainland. The Fat Controller directed the team towards James's coach.



9. On his way to Wellsworth James passed through the Main Station. He whistled loudly to make sure Thomas and Percy heard him. He arrived at Wellsworth on time.



10. The cricket team headed for the pitch. "You can wait here until the match is over," the Fat Controller told James. "I am a really important engine," thought James.



11. James waited patiently for the match to finish. He was pleased to rest his wheels. The cricket team must have enjoyed their journey with me so much that they want me to take them back as well." James closed his eyes contentedly and rested in the warm sunshine. But James was suddenly woken.

12. An eager batsman had hit the cricket ball very hard indeed. The ball flew up into the air and dropped right inside James's funnel. He couldn't make steam properly until the ball was removed. Thomas and Percy heard about James's ordeal. "At least trucks don't throw things into your boiler!" they laughed.

THE END

In our next issue: A shock for Percy!

COMPETITION!

40 BRAND NEW THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS VIDEOS TO BE WON!

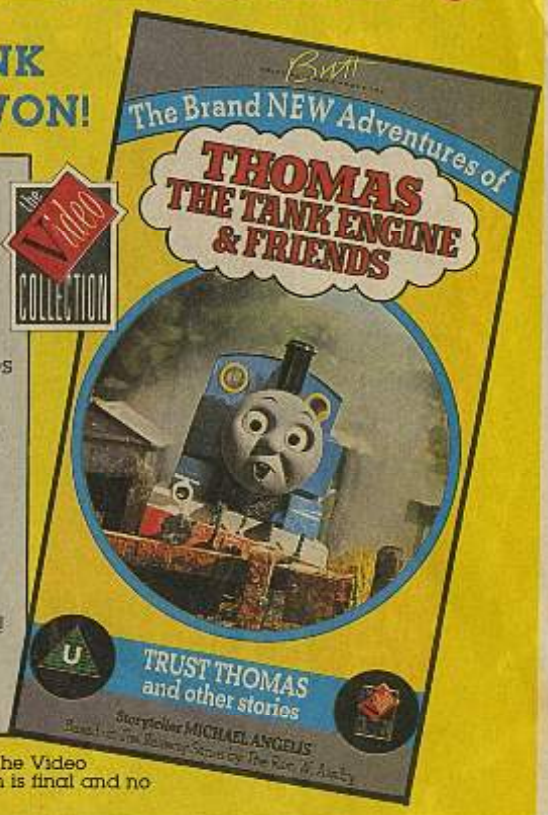
Don't miss this splendid opportunity to enter our exciting competition and have the chance to win one of **40** charming **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends videos**, courtesy of *The Video Collection!*

Each video contains **8** splendid stories featuring all of your favourite characters from the Island of Sodor! What's more, all the stories contained on this video are all brand new adventures and have not yet been viewed on television!

To enter this competition, simply answer the following question:

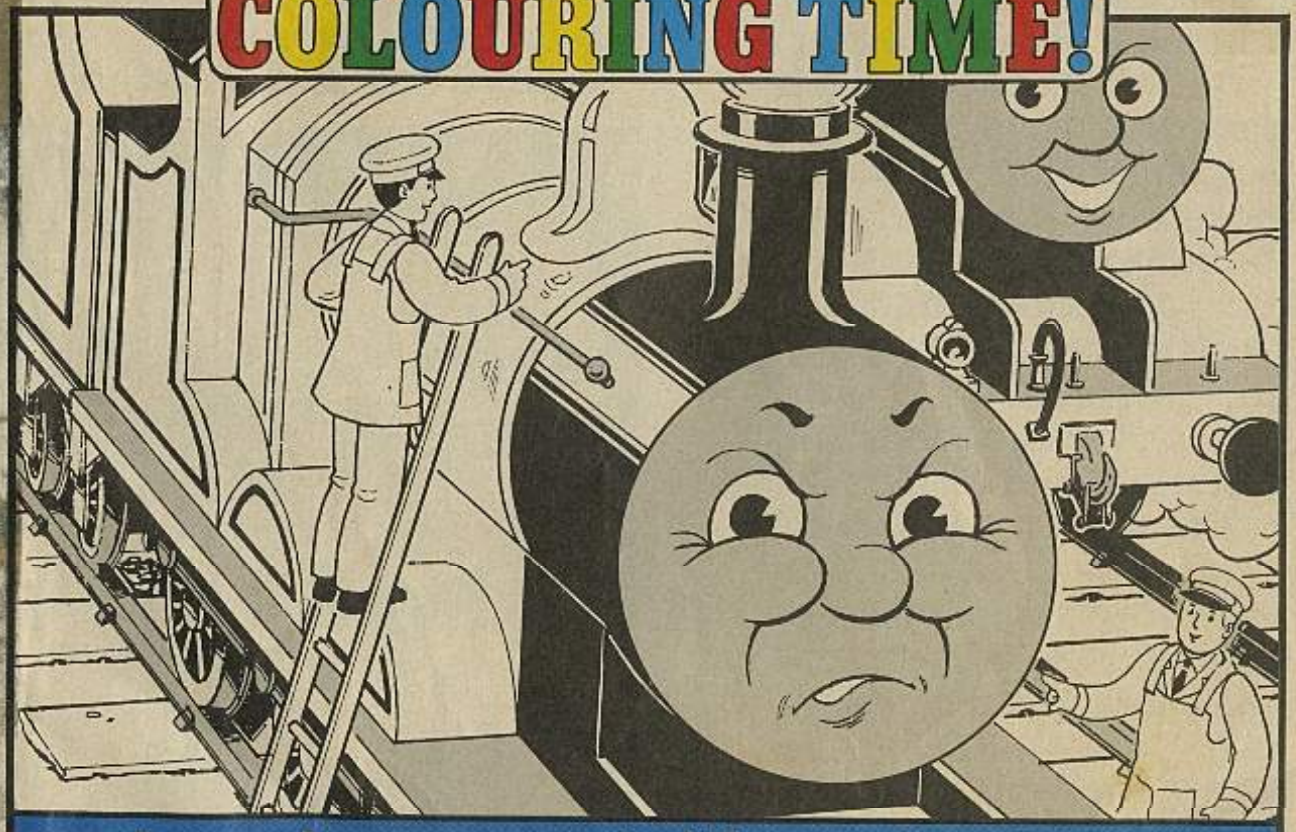
Gordon is a Really Speedy Engine! But what is his number?

Write your answers on a postcard and send your entries to: *Thomas/Video Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.* The first **40** correct entries drawn from our mailbag on **Friday 17th January 1992** will be the lucky winners! Keen Thomas fans who are eager to purchase one of these splendid videos right away, will be pleased to know that they are available from all good video stockists, priced at **£7.99!**



This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of The Video Collection, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd., and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

COLOURING TIME!



**James has come out of the engine shed,
Colour him your brightest red!**

A read-aloud story!

BUMPY RIDE

One morning, Gordon came proudly out of the engine shed. "I am the most important engine," he boasted to Thomas and Percy, who were shunting trucks in the yard. "I'm the fastest and I pull the Express!"

"What a show off!" fumed Percy.

"Gordon is becoming too boastful for his own good," steamed Thomas. Gordon was coupled to his coaches and he set off. Later, Gordon returned to the Main Station and the Fat Controller came to see him.

"Some of your passengers have complained", he told Gordon. The Fat Controller looked very cross. "They said the carriages you pulled rocked to and fro and that it made the journey very uncomfortable!"

"I don't understand it, sir!" protested Gordon. "I always pull the Express smoothly!"

"Make sure you do tomorrow", replied the Fat Controller, sternly. "Or I will ask Henry to pull the Express!"

"It's not fair!" huffed Gordon. "No one can pull the Express better than me."

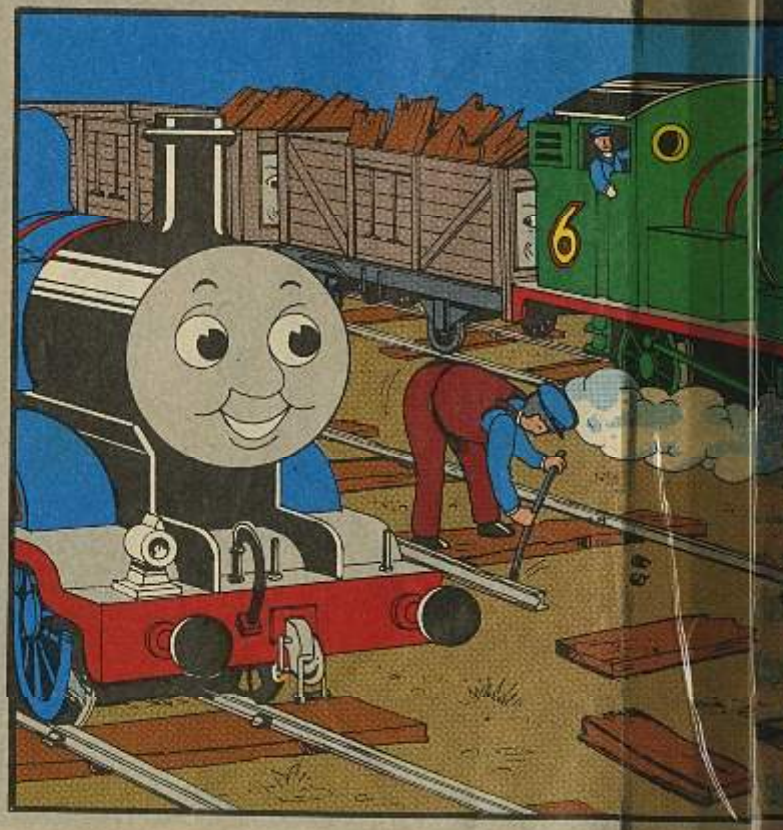
Next day, when he took the Express, Gordon was careful to go very smoothly indeed. Afterwards, the Fat Controller was waiting for him at the Main Station.

"Even more passengers complained today, Gordon," he said.

"They have been ringing me all morning to say what a bumpy ride it was on the Express!"

Gordon was puzzled. "I'm sure it's not my fault, sir!" he said. "It must be the track!"

The Fat Controller spoke with Gordon's guard and driver. He decided to send some engineers to inspect the line.



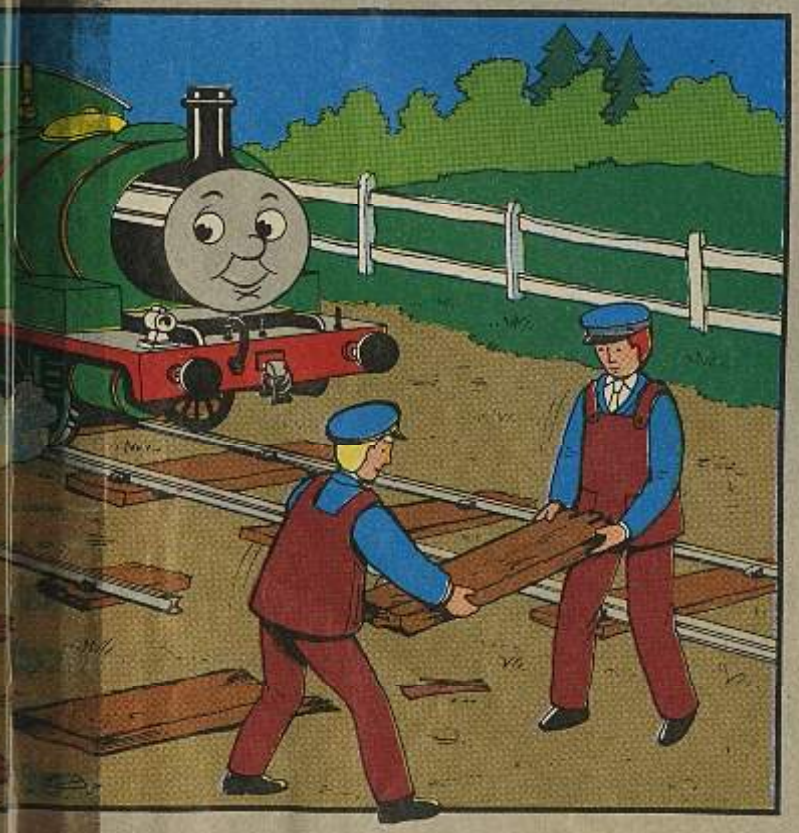
They went in a special train pulled by Duck.

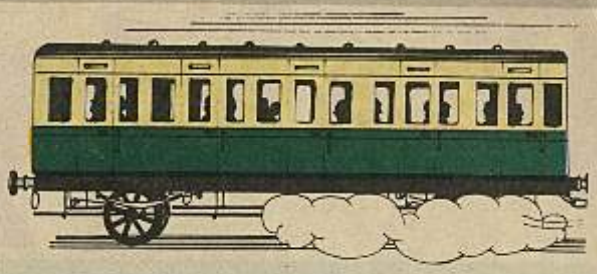
He went very slowly. As he neared Gordon's Hill, Duck felt a section of track move beneath his wheels. He told his driver, who stopped the train. The engineers climbed down on the line. They say the section of rail was worn out. It rested on big wooden sleepers that were old and rotting.

"So that's why Gordon's carriages rocked about!" said Duck's driver.

When the Fat Controller heard, he told the engineers to replace the faulty section of track. "It is an urgent job", he said. "The work must be finished in time for tomorrow morning's Express!"

The engineers worked all





The Express

day and into the night. So did Thomas and Percy. The new line and sleepers were loaded on to Thomas's trucks. He had to deliver them to the engineers. The trucks were very heavy to pull. Meanwhile, the men moved the old rail and rotting sleepers. Percy waited patiently to take them back to the yard in his trucks.

At last, the repair was finished. Thomas and Percy were very tired. When they rolled wearily into the Engine Shed, it was almost morning. Later, the Fat Controller came to thank them personally. "Well done!" he said. "You are both Really Useful Engines!" Thomas and Percy felt very proud indeed. Then the Fat Controller turned to Gordon. "I am sorry for thinking that your carriages were to blame", he said. "You can pull the Express, as usual!"

Percy chuckled to Thomas. "Gordon couldn't pull the Express anywhere without our help to repair the line!"

"We're important, too!" replied Thomas, sleepily. And for once, Gordon agreed with them.

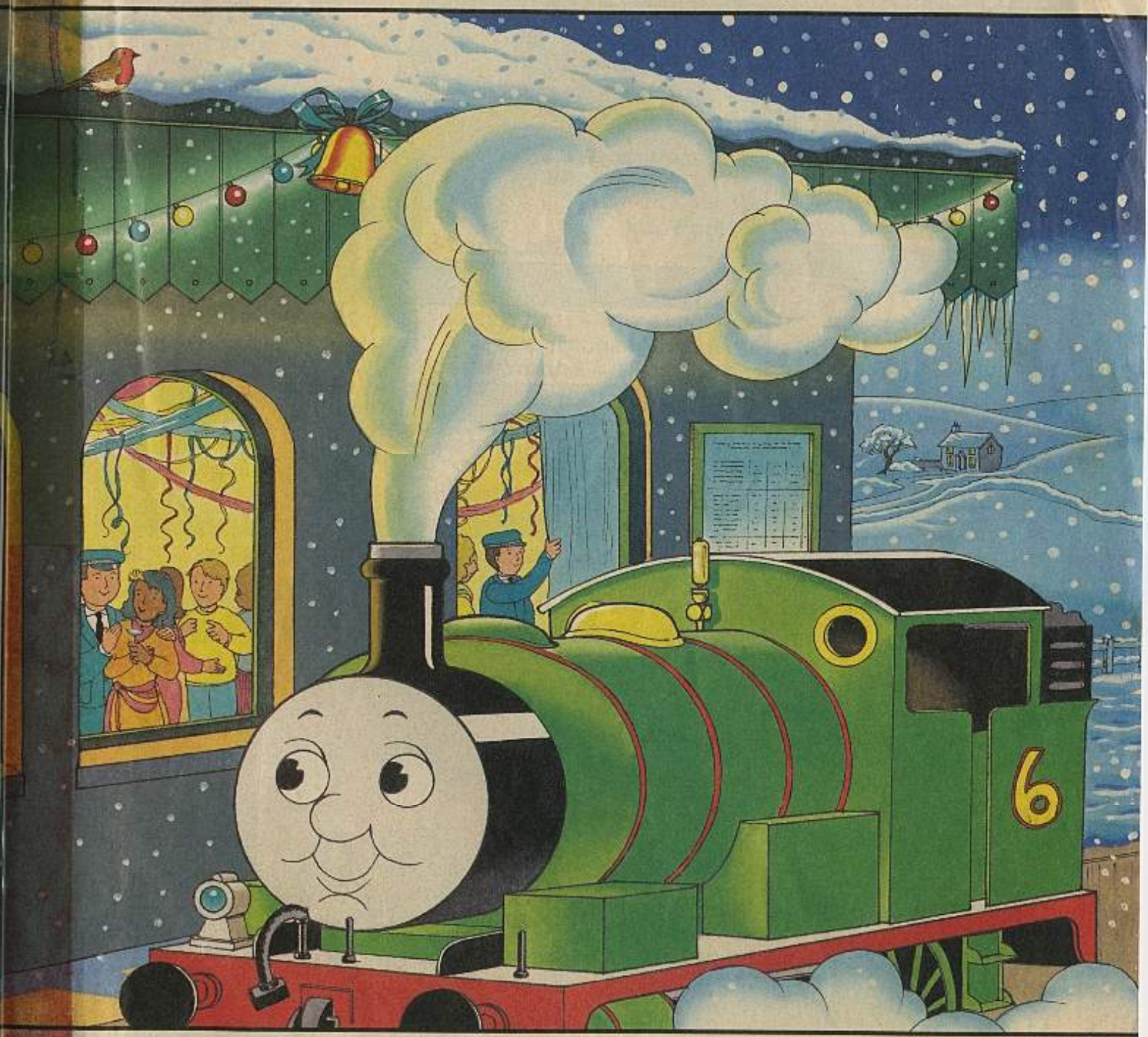
THE END!

Party celeb

Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
Can you see the Main Station?
How many people are in the waiting room?

What do you
Point to the c
What does the
What time of y

orations!



hink they are celebrating?
ock on the wall!
e banner say?
ear do you think it is?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Past the cottage!

JAMES'S JAPES

Have you got a favourite joke to tell James? If so, then why not send it to him at the address shown on the letters page?! The best jokes we receive will be printed in some of our future issues!

How do you know when a fridge is angry?
When it loses it's cool!
David, aged 6.

Where do American cows come from?
Moo York!
Anitta, aged 5.

Who gets the most kicks out of his job?
A footballer!
Alan, aged 6.

What's white and goes up?
A stupid snowflake!
Adrian, aged 5.

How do you keep young dogs quiet?
With hush puppies!
James, aged 4.

Why does a glow-worm glow?
Because it eats light meals!
Gary, aged 5.

How do rabbits travel?
By hareplane!
Lorraine, aged 4.

NEWSAGENT'S FORM

Do you often find that **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** is sold out at your local newsagents? Well, here's a way of making sure of your copy every fortnight – just fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent! He will then order it regularly especially for you!

Dear Newsagent,
Please save/send me a copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight! Thank you!

Name .....

.....

Address .....

.....

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Signature of parent or guardian .....

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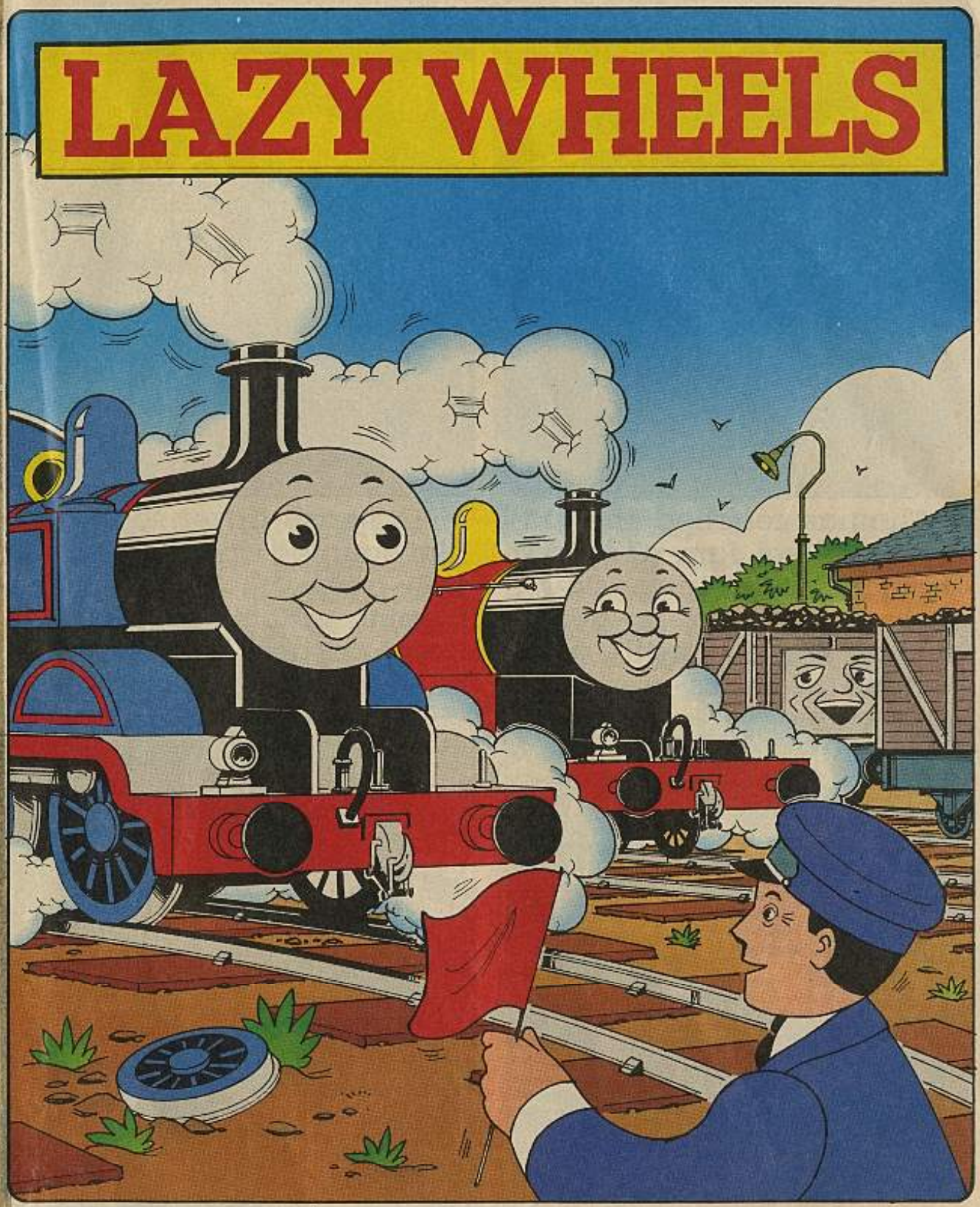
A listen and look story!

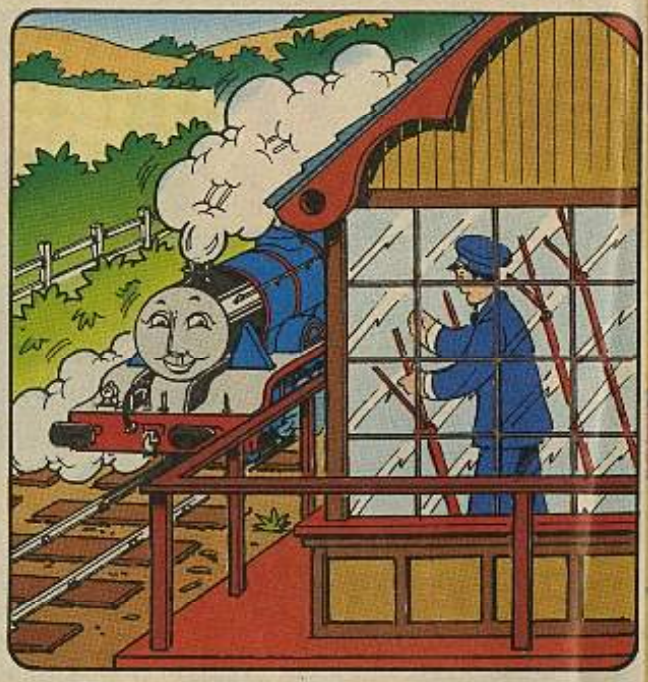
LAZY WHEELS



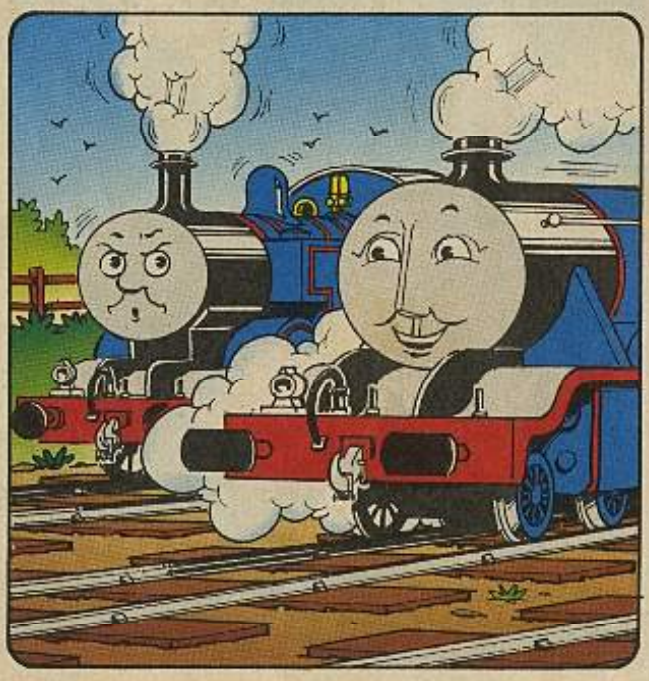
1. It was a splendid day on the Island of Sodor. Thomas was busy, shunting trucks in the Main Station yard. James was waiting to pull the light goods train.

2. "Hurry along, Thomas!" moaned James. "I'm waiting for my trucks!" "Hold your pistons! Hold your pistons!" sang Thomas, as he hurried across the big station yard.

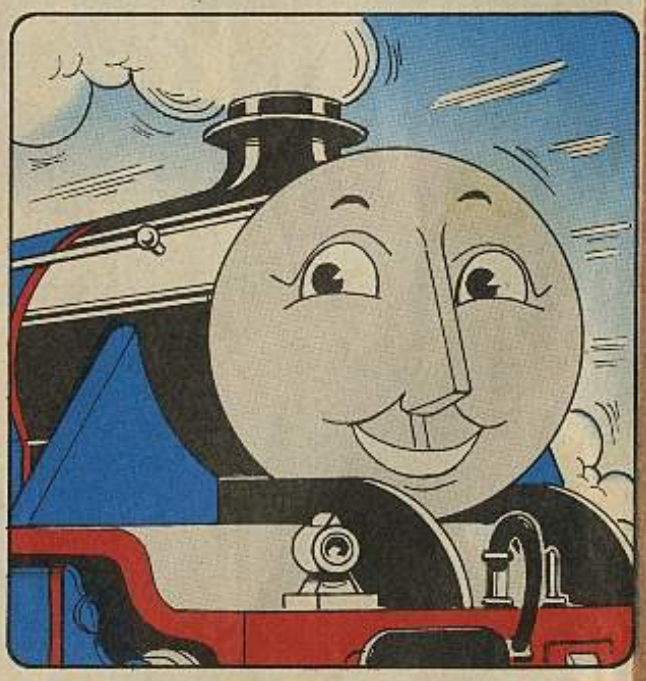
3. Thomas reached the siding to collect James's trucks. Thomas backed up slowly and gave them a gentle bump. "Ouch! Ouch!" complained the trucks.



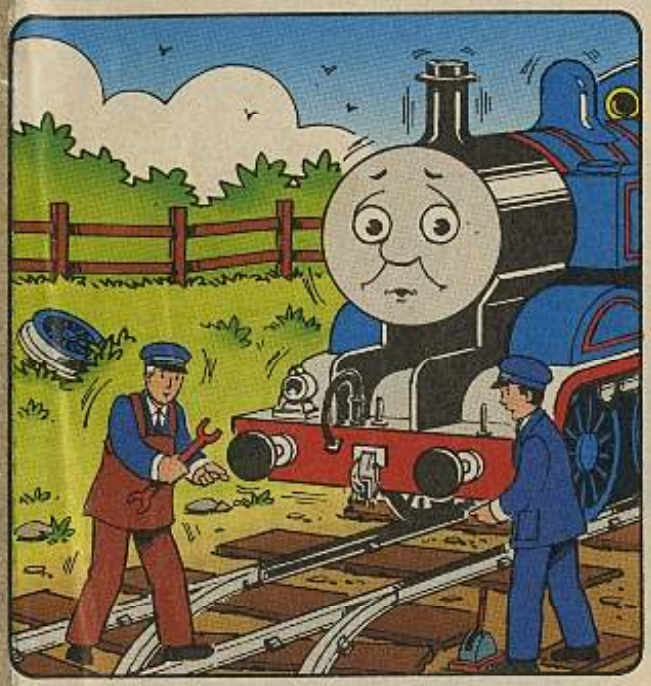
4. Thomas's driver soon had him coupled up and ready to pull away but Gordon was passing with the Express. "Oh dear," gasped Thomas! "I will be delayed even more now!"



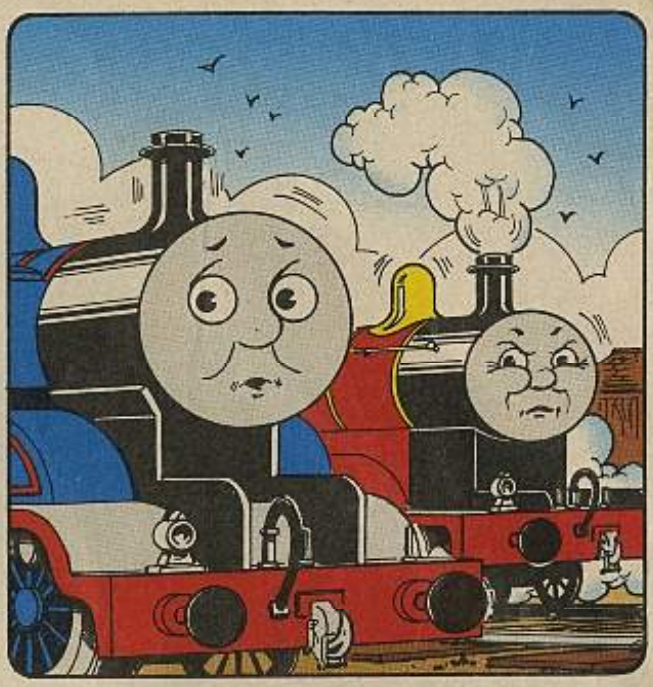
5. "Peep! Peep! Thomas!" whistled Gordon. "What are you sitting on that siding for? Don't you have work to do?" "I'm waiting for you to get out of my way!" said Thomas.



6. "Well you'll just have to wait little Thomas," laughed Gordon as he rushed by. When the line was clear, the signalman tried to change the points.

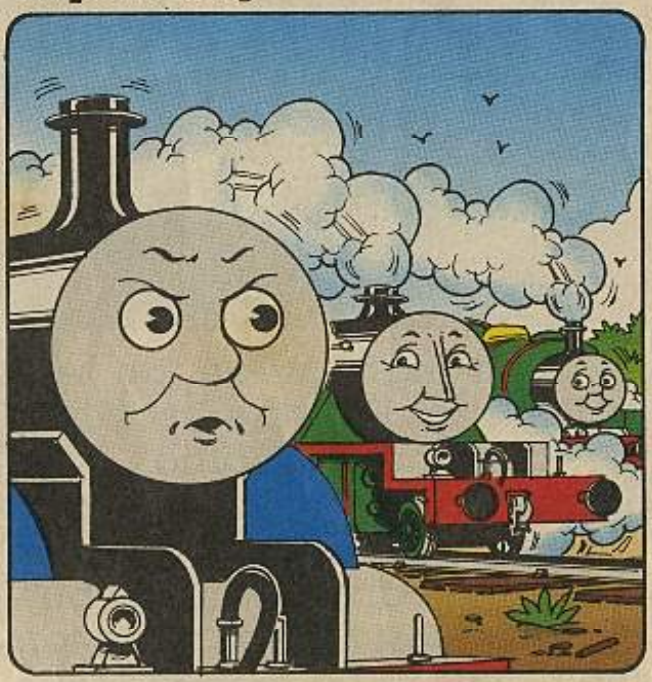


7. "The points are jammed," explained the signalman. "I'm afraid Thomas will have to wait until we repair them. That means James will have to wait for his trucks, too."

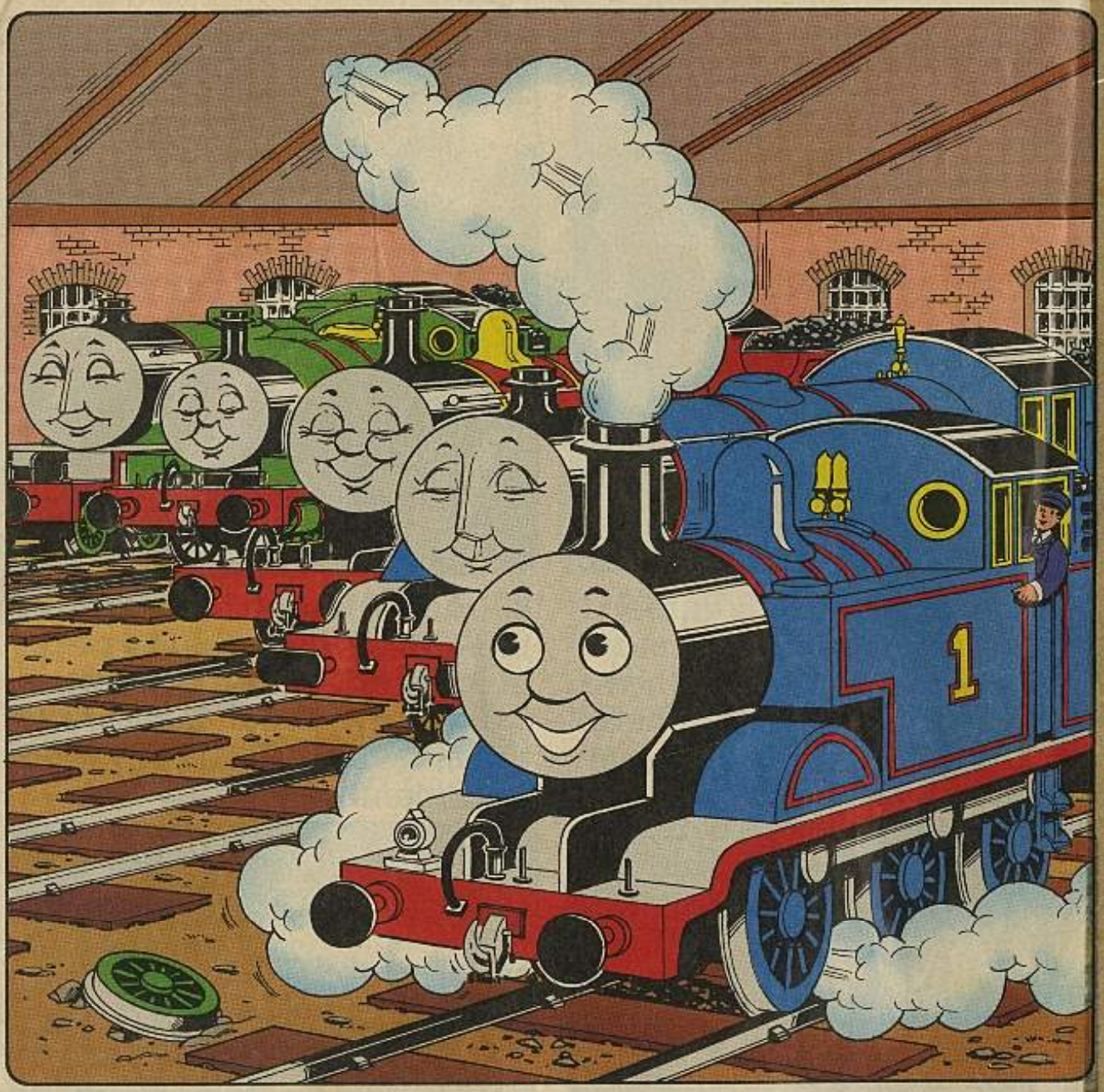


8. Poor Thomas was left on the siding and James stood in the yard. The other engines were busy about their work. Thomas and James waited impatiently.

9. The signalman quickly sent a message to the Fat Controller to tell him that the points were stuck. Very soon, two railway staff arrived to try and mend the points.



10. All morning, the other engines teased Thomas and called him a 'lazy wheels'. Soon the points were mended and Thomas was able to take the trucks to the siding.



11. That night, when the rest of the engines were heading for their sheds, Thomas and James were still busy. They should have finished their work by early evening but they had lost time waiting for the points to be mended. But Thomas was just happy not to be stuck on the siding! He sang cheerily as he hurried along the mainline.

12. When Thomas eventually returned to the shed, it was late. All the other engines were asleep! Gordon and Henry and Percy and James. "Lazy wheels!" laughed Thomas. "I'd like to blow on my whistle and wake them all up with a great 'PEEP!" Luckily for the other engines Thomas's driver didn't think that was such a good idea!

THE END

In our next issue: Toby's visitors!

A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

For just £18.00 (£35.00 overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.

Please send **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for:

☐ **1 year** for **£18.00 (£35** overseas)
☐ **6 months** for **£10.00 (£18.00** (overseas).

Child's name .....
Address .....
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Date of birth .....
Postcode .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date.....
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Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....
Address (if different from child's) .....
.....
..... Postcode .....

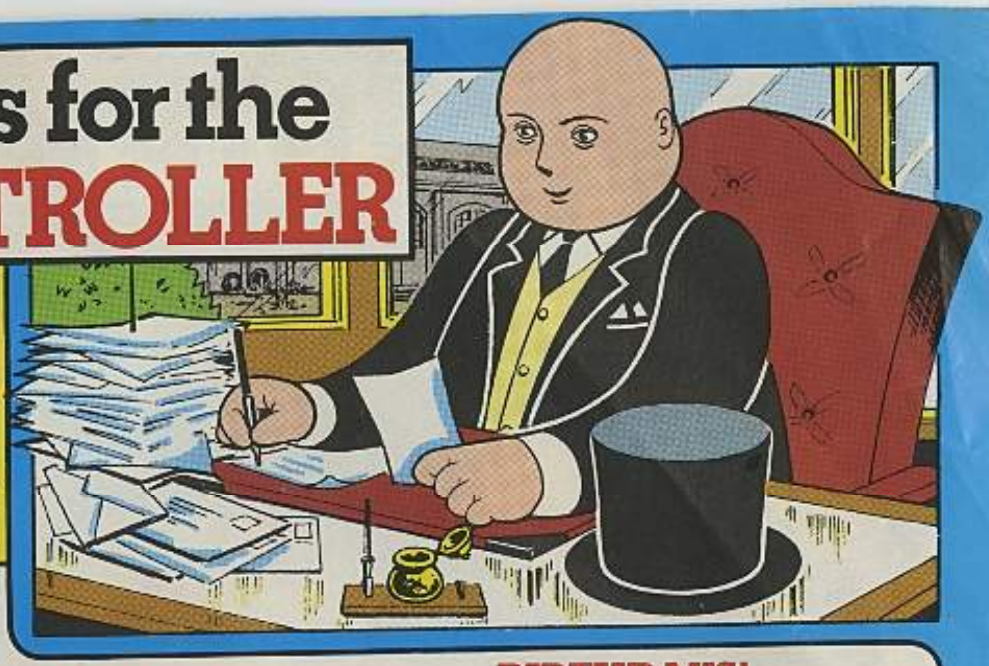
Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

(Tick boxes where appropriate) FC2

JOIN THE DOTS!

**Bob and Dave say 'Happy New Year'!
But what else is in the picture here?
Something far and something near –
Join the dots to make it clear!**

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Thomas and Edward,
Gordon too,
Are all painted in a
lovely shade of blue,
Annie and Clarabel
follow on behind,
Stopping at stations
along the line,
Henry and Percy are
grassy green,
Bill and Ben are bright
and clean,
They all wave as they go by,
While Harold hovers up
in the sky!

Love from **Jackie Foster**, aged 3.

Gracious me! Your verse is splendid,
We wish that it had never ended,
Your charming effort has won a prize,
To write again would be very wise!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank motorised engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

SPLENDID STATION!

Dear Fat Controller,
My name is Emma and I like to ride on the steam train that runs from Swanage. Mummy and Daddy like it too! The station is very interesting. It has a little shop that sells lots of lovely things. I bought a flag with a picture of **Thomas the Tank Engine** on it and waved it to all the guards!

Love from **Emma**, aged 2.

It sounds as if you had a lovely time at Swanage, Emma! I visited Swanage many years ago and thought it was a very charming railway!

FINE RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
I think you have a splendid collection of engines and a well organised railway!

Love from **Matthew Haile**, aged 6.

My! I am very flattered indeed by your encouraging letter. I am particularly pleased that you appreciate my fine engines.

BIRTHDAYS!

Special birthday greetings go out to . . .
Edward John Powell, Kerry Mackinnon, Hedley Smith (27798), Nicholas Chapman (31298), David Andrew Sherman, Neal Allen, Peter Tam, Michael Robert Wood (30220), Marc Thompson (31235), Adam Sanderson (31377), Peter James Cotton (3965), Michael Christopher Ford (36497), Goerge Stoker (37337), Steven Whisteford, Kieran Sparks (34688), Richard James Mills (35374), Michael Phillip Chaplin, Nicholas Williams, Lucy O'Hare, Christopher Bird, Thomas Doherty.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Santa's Lost!

100 VIDEOS AND ANNUALS TO BE WON*

DON'T SAY GLUE · SAY UHU ·

Poor Santa. He's got all his presents to deliver an lost his map. How will he know where to go? You help him find your house by sending him a picture And you could win some of your favourite videos annuals (there are 100 to be won!). Just use UHU to make a collage picture of where you live, from paper, cloth, or anything you like. Put your name back, fill in the entry form and send everything to: Competitions, PO Box 967, Bath BA2 3ZE.

Rules:

1. This competition is open to all readers of this publication, who are aged below 7 years as of 29.2.92, families of UHU UK, their agents, the above named publications or anyone connected with this comp
2. All entries must be accompanied by an official entry form.
3. Entries must be received by 29.2.92, when the competition will close.
4. It is a condition of entry that the rules of the competition are accepted as final and that competitors a abide by the rules.
5. All entries will be judged by a panel of judges appointed by UHU UK including one member independe UK and their agents.
6. The judges' decision shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
7. Entries will not be returnable, they and the copyright in them will become the property of UHU UK.
8. All prizewinners will be notified by post by 16.3.92.
9. A list of the names and counties of the winners will be made available after 20.3.92 to anyone applyin competition address and enclosing a stamped, self addressed envelope marked 'Results'.

* We reserve the right to alter the prizes without prior notice.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Signature of parent _____

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Competition closes 29.2.92

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